

Att'y Dkt. No. US-1460

U.S. App. No: 10/023,711

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly rewrite Claims 1-6 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as amended and made effective July 30, 2003:*

1. (currently amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid target substance ~~by utilizing a microorganism comprising the steps of~~ culturing an Escherichia coli bacterium belonging to the genus Escherichia in a medium; ~~allowing to produce and accumulate the said L-amino acid target substance to accumulate~~ in the medium ~~and/or in the cells of the bacterium; and collecting said L-amino acid the target substance,~~

wherein [an] the gene encoding the RMF protein or a controlling sequence of rmf gene of the said Escherichia coli bacterium belonging to the genus Escherichia does not function normally in the cells of the bacterium; is mutated so that said RMF protein is inactive, and wherein said L-amino acid is produced in larger quantities than if the RMF protein were active.

2-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said L-amino acid is L-lysine.